

CALLS LICENSED GAMBLING RELIC OF BARBARISM

Leading Citizen of Pecos Valley Talks Plain Talk.

THE EVIL A DISGRACE TO MODERN NEW MEXICO

J. J. Hagerman, the man who has done most, perhaps, to bring the Pecos valley to the attention of the outside world, and one of New Mexico's strongest citizens, has given his views on licensed gambling in New Mexico. They are strong views, and to the point. In a recent letter for publication, Mr. Hagerman says, in part:

New Mexico and Arizona have the distinction of being the only territories or states in the United States where gambling is licensed and authorized by law. Even Old Mexico has repealed its law licensing gambling and has prohibited it under severe penalties. Not a state in Europe authorizes it, excepting the little 5,120 acre principality of Monaco, and it is a stench in the nostrils of all the rest of Europe.

The gambling law in New Mexico is one of the relics of barbarism which came to us with the country, but which ought to have been repeated years ago by our own legislature, or by federal enactment. But we are still cursed with and disgraced by it. However, no town is bound to have gambling because it is permitted by law. The council of Roswell could vote it out of existence if it wanted to. Many towns in Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Texas, the town of Tucson in Arizona, and cities in other states are putting an end to gambling places, and it seems to me it is high time to do it here.

A man who has better facilities for knowing than probably any other man in Roswell, told me recently that he believed the combined liquor and gambling places in Roswell take in at least \$500 a day for liquor and tobacco—mostly for strong drink. What the gambling tables take in is not so easy to estimate, but it must be at least \$100,000 a year, exclusive of what the professional gamblers take out of each other. They say there are between fifty and sixty professional gamblers in town who do nothing else. They prey on one another to some extent (like the hungry dogs in Constantinople) but to live and pay the cost of running the establishments, and to pay big profits besides, the seven gambling places in Roswell must take at least \$250,000 a year of fresh money out of the general public. It is not unreasonable to believe that the seven combined saloons and gambling places cost this community at the very least \$250,000 a year. The two evils—and a third one which I need not mention now—always go together, the one helping the other. Of the three evils the liquor selling is by far the least harmful, but the three together make a combination which must be extremely gratifying to the devil, if that is the right name to apply to the evil side of the nature of some men which prompts them to destroy themselves.

Total prohibition of liquor selling has not been found practicable in other places, and perhaps it is not practicable here. As I understand the law the city council has power to grant licenses to one saloon, or a dozen, just as it pleases. Higher license might not limit them to one or two but the refusal to grant a license to more than one or two is within the power of the council, and that body can do as it pleases in the matter. It is doubtful if with a high license more than one or two saloons would be profitable here if gambling were prohibited. The two together, with high license on whiskey and low license of gambling make such a profitable combination that they thrive and flourish to a disgraceful extent.

Some people believe that liquor selling is not necessarily an unalloyed evil—they think they can see in it some shade or trace of good, but I never heard anyone argue that gambling is not an unalloyed evil. When made a business of it stands alone as black, malignant, cold-blooded wickedness. The farmer gives value for his gains; the workman gives value for his labor and skill; the professional gambler gives for his gain nothing but evil; he is a curse to himself, his family, if he has one, and most of all of the young men in any community which is infested by his presence. From the time when the seamless coat of the Saviour of men was gambled for by the Roman soldiers down to this day, history has not recorded one instance of its being anything but a withering blight both to a man's fortune, his mind, his heart and his soul.

And yet this territory of New Mexico makes it a legal business, and this city of Roswell for a paltry sum lets it prey wholesale on the vitals of the community. Some people say that those who do not live in Roswell have no right to talk about its gambling or about anything else done here. That is not correct. The crime factories permitted in Roswell are direct and indirect cause of most of the crimes which fill the jail with prisoners, take the time of the courts, and add enormously to the expenses of the county which every taxpayer in it must help to pay. A large share of the farming by irrigation in this vicinity is so near the town that workmen can easily go there and fool away their money. The men employed by the cattle and sheep raisers on the plains necessarily come to town occasionally, especially when they are paid for several months work. The gambling places are open night and day and the gamblers are always on the lookout to waylay them and rob them of their hard-earned money. Whiskey and gambling get a very large share of the money earned by these men. For that part of the gambler's trade called the "roping" men, clerks, cowboys and greenhorns, I cannot find the words to express its infernal rapacity. We spray our trees to kill insects which destroy fruit; we dip cattle to kill vermin which injure them; we pay a bounty for the scalps of wolves which kill cattle and sheep, but we license and wink at vices which always demoralize and often kill men.

Most of the strangers who come to this valley to buy land, or to engage in business, come from the north and stay at Roswell. It is the county seat, the place of the United States land office for a very large region, the seat of the United States district court, and the natural commercial and trading center, not only of the valley, but of an enormous stretch of country outside of it. It is the place where thousands

of strangers yearly get their first impressions of the moral quality of the people in this region, and what sort of an impression must they get when they see seven big glaring saloons and gambling dens in the very heart of the town—all in fact within two minutes' walk of the banks, the United States court, the United States land office, the hotels, the postoffice and the largest stores? From a purely business point of view these places are a blight to the town. The people of Artesia are wise enough to prohibit gambling. They advertise it to attract strangers who value decency, and they richly deserve all the good they are getting from it, some of it at Roswell's expense.

I believe that if gambling were prohibited, and the saloons reduced to one or two (if they cannot be totally abolished) the deposits in our banks would grow enormously, better people would come here, many of those now here would be vastly improved morally and financially, the churches would be better in quality, trade would increase, crime would enormously lessen, the value of property would be enhanced and taxes would be much lower. But above all, the moral tone, the self-respect, and every quality which makes for decency would be vastly increased. That rare quality called "moral courage," which in Roswell is now such a sickly plant as to be almost undiscernible, would grow to a strong healthy tree. It would send its roots deep down in pure soil, and its grateful shade would bless the whole community.

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Just as Scores of Albuquerque People Waiting doesn't pay. If you neglect the aching back, urinary troubles, diabetes, surely follow. Doan's Kidney Pills relieve backache. Cure every kidney ill. Albuquerque citizens endorse them. Mrs. M. J. Butler, residence 717 East street, says: "When I went to the Alvarado Pharmacy for Doan's Kidney Pills I had an attack of backache. It was only one of many which had annoyed me for two or three years. At first they were mild and I expected they would leave just as mysteriously as they came, but with the passing of time the attacks were more frequent and of longer duration. I used three boxes of Doan's Kidney Pills and was rewarded with an entire cessation of the aching. Up to date, and it is considerably over six months since I stopped the treatment, there has not been a sign of any recurrence."

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About Polly Primrose. It's a far cry from "Resurrection" in which Blanch Walsh made her greatest hit, to "Polly Primrose" that is, in the motif of these two notable stage creations, one the story of a fallen woman, full of sadness and remorse; the other all sprightliness and vivacity. And the actress who is fitted to play the leading role in both must be endowed with rare versatility indeed.

Miss Carol Arden having delighted great houses with her impersonations of the woman, Maslova, in Tolstoy's powerful novel, is now entrancing other multitudes with the portrayals of the playful "Polly," the sweetheart of the war spy.

For "Polly Primrose" is a war story, cast in the times when General Lee was hoping to descend upon Washington. But the war flavor is only incidental to the rivalry for her favor of two guests of her father's hospitality, who are each in turn suspected with more or less reason—chiefly because having sought the rebel colonel's hospitality only that they might carry the secrets of his military plans to the commanders of the Union armies.

The charming naïveté with which she tries to surprise them into confession of their patriotic sympathies at once amuse the spectator and fill him with a delightful bewilderment as to how it is all to come out. He finds his answer when in the sequel she surrenders unconditionally to the one whom she first helps to flee when she doesn't believe him to be a federal spy, and afterwards orders from her home when she is forced to suspect that he is one after all.

But the lively "Polly" does him injustice with her delicate suspicions. He isn't any spy at all. The only spy she can bring home to him, is that of reading the love letters of her admirers which she has "discovered" left lying on the parlor sofa—where she was pretty sure he would find them. And it's a pretty scene, too, that shows him trying to hide them behind his back while she insists on reading his fortune on the lines of both his hands.

Here are glimpses of a little story of war and love that Miss Carol Arden is to help unfold for Albuquerque theater-goers on October 28th.

Jointure or Nothing. The congressional committee that has recently visited Arizona and New Mexico, according to single statehood advocates, has experienced a change of heart, and are now ready to support a measure in congress allowing the two territories in as states. The single statehooders, however, do not take into consideration that your Uncle Joe Cannon had a sore head, or something and unfortunately could not come along, and the further fact that he of all others, must be won over to single statehood before even a bill to that effect can be considered in congress. The News still maintains that joint statehood is the only measure that will be passed by the coming congress, and the people had just as well make up their minds to support that measure or fight it out. It is Arizona, the Great, or it is nothing—Captain News.

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NOTICE

March 24th, last, H. B. Ray, an old resident of the city, book-keeper at the Albuquerque Foundry, purchased from the Surety Investment Company, on the installment plan, Lot 11, in Block 15, Eastern Addition—Highlands; consideration to be \$175.00.

Saturday, October 21st, less than seven months afterwards, up to which time he had only paid \$85.00 in installments, he sold the lot for \$250.00 cash—thus making a net profit of \$75.00 on an actual investment of only \$85.00.

Monday, of this week, Mr. Ray came to the office and bought Lots 1 and 2, in Block 20, same addition.

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